

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
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REIR Corrigenda
Ballona Creek Channelization
Tom McMahon
November 9, 2023

Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project –

There are several factual errors in the following two documents:

1) WCB Grant Application 09/06/2023:

<http://ballonanow.org/wcb/> -

“WCB_General_Application_FINAL_revMar2023_BWER_09_06_2023_Final.pdf”

The figures quoted from “Schreiber, R. (ed.) 1981. Biota of the Ballona Region” are incorrect. Dock and Schreiber’s research was incomplete; they failed to verify their figures with USACE documentation.

In particular, Page 3, fifth (approx.) paragraph:

“In the early 1930’s, Ballona Creek was straightened, and the banks armored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Construction of the eastern portion of the flood control channel was started before 1934, while construction of the channel through the western portion was completed by 1934 (Dock and Schreiber, 1981 suggest a date of 1932 for completion).”

As per “USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937”, the correct information is:

Start of excavation - Sept. 4, 1935 (eastern portion)
Outlet Opened - Dec 1936
Banks Paved - Jan 1938
Jetties Completed & Capped - June 15th, 1940.

2) 2020 Final EIR:

“In the early 1930s, Ballona Creek was straightened and the banks armored by the Corps. Construction of the eastern portion of the flood

control channel was started before 1934, while construction of the channel through the western portion was completed by 1934."

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Unfortunately, unlike many large complex technical documents there is no provision for incorporation of corrigenda in the FEIR 2020. However, the advent of the REIR gives CDFW the opportunity to rectify these issues and to prevent the inevitable perpetuation of bad data. In the interest of historical & technical accuracy and public service, these data should be corrected at this point.

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer

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Reference: "USACE FILE NO. 95 085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937" (also see attached files):

